

Advent Devotional – Day 2 (Dec 4)

“From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.” -John 1:16

Advent is here; the waiting has begun. I am trying to take time to wait; it is not natural for me.

Now that Advent has begun, I no longer have to wait to listen to Christmas music. The rule in our house (that I dutifully obey) is that I am not allowed to put on Christmas music until after Thanksgiving. So before the numerous totes of Christmas decorations are brought in from the garage, I start the decorating with loading the CD player with Christmas music. The CD player holds 50 CD's plus one. We have almost enough Christmas CD's to fill every slot.

I hit “play-all, shuffle.” The player randomly selects a CD and song to play, then shuffles through and selects another CD and another song, and so the process continues. The problem is, not all the songs nor all the CD's play. The player tends to play the same 20 or so songs over and over, yet randomly changing the order. We enjoy the songs, but miss hearing the full selection of songs.

At Advent/Christmas time we hear the same 20 verses of Scripture over and over (from the narrative in Luke 2) – when Mary and Joseph have to journey to Bethlehem, spend a night in a manger, and angels appear to shepherds. It is a wonderful story, packed with nuances, significant works of God, and hopeful proclamations of angels and challenging responses. And yet, if we only hear these verses we miss the full story – the story that starts before Christmas, the story of proclamations by prophets, such as Isaiah, the story of an angel appearing to Zechariah and then Elizabeth saying they would have a child, the story of the genealogy of Jesus.

I love the 20 verses in Luke Chapter 2 that tell of the birth of Jesus. Yet, this Advent season I desire to experience the full story – the story that prepares us for Christmas, the proclamations of prophets, the messages of angels, the genealogy of Jesus that is full of peculiar people.

In the fullness of the story we experience grace and more grace – the story that deepens our desire for Jesus, the Christ, God's son, the story of...

“...the one true Son of the Father – full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

May the grace and truth of God's Son come to you this Advent

--Pastor Jeff